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INSCRIPTIONS ON OLD TOMBSTONES IN WESTMORE-
LAND AND NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTIES.

{Copied from the tombstones by Rev. Dr. G. W. Beale, of Heathsville, Northumberland county, with the exception of the inscription on the tomb of Mrs. Ann Lee, which is taken from Dr. Lee's "Lee of Virginia," and of that on the tombstone of Izatis Anderson, near Cherry Point, which was copied by Mr. I. Basye Marsh.)

At Nominy Church, on the creek of the same name, there was at the time of the destruction of the building by the British in 1814, a tomb commemorative of the first wife of Hon. Richard Henry Lee, the inscription on which, as found among Mr. Lee's papers, and published by Dr. E. Jennings Lee, is as follows:

Sacred to the Memory
of Mrs. Ann Lee,* wife of R. H. Lee
This monument was erected by her
Afflicted husband in the year 1768.
Reflect, dear reader, on the great
Uncertainty of human life, since neither
esteem, temperament nor the most amiable
goodness could save this excellent lady from death.
In the bloom of life. She left behind her four children,
two sons and two daughters.
Obiit 12th December 1768, æt 30.
Was there so precious a flower
But given us to behold it waste,
The short-lived blossom of an hour
Too nice, too fair, too sweet to last.

* Mrs. Lee was the younger of the two daughters of Capt. William Aylett's second marriage with Elizabeth Eskridge, daughter of Major George Eskridge, of Sandy Point. Her sister Mary married Mr. Lee's brother, Thomas Ludwell. Her half-sisters by her father's previous marriage with Anne Ashton, were Elizabeth and Ann, who respectively married William Booth and W. Augustine Washington. Mrs. Lee's mother, after Captain Aylett's death, about 1744, married again, Col. James Steptoe, a widower with two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann, who married Philip Ludwell Lee, and Willoughby Allerton, and after their deaths P. R. Fendall and Samuel Washington. The four children referred to as surviving Mrs. Lee were Thomas, who afterwards settled in Prince William county, Ludwell, who went to Loudoun; Hannah, who married Corbin Washington, and Mary, who married William Augustine Washington. Mrs. Lee was buried in the old burial ground under the hills at Mount Pleasant.

At the bottom of the garden at Nominy Hall, the last century residence of Councillor Carter and his father, an upright slab has on it these words:

Here to the right of the late
 J. J. Maund,* Esq., is
 deposited the body of his dutiful
 Daughter,
 M^{rs} Ann Arnest,
 Who departed this life
 On the 23^d day of May,
 1818, in her 28th
 Year.

Such consummate goodness and worth combined
 Are rarely met with in the human mind.
 Go, sweet Anna, such excellence by thy Maker given
 Will find acceptance in the court of Heaven.

Here lieth
 The Body of the once very useful
 Magistrate and Deacon,
 JOSEPH PIERCE,*
 A lover of Truth, Justice and the
 RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST.
 Who departed this Life June 5th,
 1798, about the 70th year of his Age.
 The serpent need not gape for prey,
 Nor Death his victory boast,
 For Jesus takes the Sting away
 And all their power is lost.
 Then let the Just with Jesus sleep,
 In undisturbed repose,
 And only lie thus buried deep
 To rise as once He rose.

* J. J. Maund emigrated from Wales (Pembrokeshire) and married August 1, 1789, Harriet Lucy, one of the daughters of Hon. Robert Carter and Francis Tasker. Their eldest daughter—Anna Martin Maund—married Dr. John Arnest, and died (as above) May 23, 1818, leaving three sons and a daughter—George (of Texas), John (of California), Thomas M. (of Nominy Hall, Westmoreland), and Sophia (Mrs. Dozier).

Here lies the remains
 of the late SARAH E. PIERCE,
 late wife to Joseph Pierce.*
 She had 5 daughters and 4
 sons. She departed this life
 the 20th day of Septemb^r in the
 Year of our Lord 1783 in the
 49th year of her Age.

In Memory of
 MARGARET G. HERNDON,
 Born June 17th 1808.
 Died Decemb^r 26th, 1841.
 The memory of the just is blessed.
 Erected by Elder R. H. Herndon.

The three inscriptions given above were copied from three upright slabs in the grave yard at Level Green, the old Pierce homestead, one mile from Templeman's, Westmoreland county. The slabs were found beneath a cluster of graceful and majestic cedars beside a woods, and not many rods distant from where the old mansion stood, not a vestige of which is now visible.

At Wilmington the early seat of the Newtons, near the head of Bonum's Creek, in Westmoreland, two horizontal slabs supported each by six carved stones, may be seen near the road. The inscription from one of these, placed over Mrs. Sarah Newton, was published in a previous issue of the *QUARTERLY* (Vol. VII., No. 2, October, 1898). The other tomb appears to have been erected at the same time that its companion was, and chiselled by

* Capt. Joseph Pierce was the second son of William Pierce of Westmoreland, whose will of August, 1733, mentions him, and was grandson of William and Sarah Pierce, early settlers in the county. The elder William made his will March 25, 1702. His name is perpetuated in Pierce's Creek, an arm of Nominy. Capt. Joseph Pierce married Sarah Ransdell, and among his children were son Ransdell, and daughters Martha, Sally Ransdell, Margaret (married elder R. H. Herndon), Fannie, and Sibella (married Samuel Templeman). Captain Pierce, in his will, dated January 1, 1796, liberated a large number of slaves. He is honorably mentioned in Semple's *History of Virginia Baptists*.

the same hand—the two stones being in size, general design and style of lettering precisely alike. Owing, however, to flaws in the stone the inscription on one tomb is nearly obliterated. The following words are indistinctly legible.

Beneath this stone are deposited
The Remains of
M^{rs} ELIZABETH OLDHAM *
* * * * * *
* * * * * *
Samuel Oldham,† of Westmore^d County
* * * * * *
* * * * * *
* * * Faithful Friend
* * * * * *

Departed this Life
On the Day of April, 1759,
In the 72^d year of her Age.

In the graveyard at Mantua, on Coan River, in Northumberland, formerly the residence of Col. James M. Smith, are to be seen, within a brick enclosure, a number of tombs. One of them is thus inscribed:

Sacred
To the Memory of
JAMES SMITH
born in the township of Cahery
County of Derry, Ireland.
He departed this life
on the 8th of February, 1832
in the 64th year of his Age.

* The above mentioned tombs at Wilmington were, doubtless, loving tributes paid by the first Willoughby Newton, of Westmoreland, to his wife and his mother. Mrs. Elizabeth Oldham was the daughter of Nehemiah Starke, of Washington Parish, and stepdaughter of Major Andrew Gilson, who married Behethland Dade. She married, first, Capt. Thomas Newton (son of the emigrant John, "master mariner"), and after his death, in 1728, she married again, Col. Samuel Oldham. In a deed (September 28, 1728) conveying her part of land granted by patent to her mother Gilson, she styles Willoughby Newton "my son and heire."

† A diligent search for the parentage and children (if any) of Col. Samuel Oldham has failed of success.

Two slabs here bear pathetic testimony to the similar bereavement of their young wives by father and son.

To the Memory of
Ann, the wife of
James Smith
and daughter of
Daniel Muse,
who closed an humble
and useful life
On the 16th October, 1799,
in the 21st year of her Age.

Sacred
to the memory of
ELIZABETH, consort of
James M. Smith,
And only daughter of
Eli Hewitt, Esq.
of Baltimore,
who departed this life
on the 16th of September, 1827,
In the twentieth year of her Age.

Other slabs at Mantua read as follows:

Sacred
to the memory of
AGNES A.,*
wife of
JAMES M. SMITH,
And Daughter of
Willoughby and Sally Newton,
of Westmoreland Cot^y,
who departed this life
May 8th, 1849, in
the 42^d year of her age.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lorwd.

* Mrs. Agnes A. Smith was a daughter of Willoughby Newton and Sally (Poythress) Newton, of Lee Hall, in Westmoreland, her mother

Sacred
To the Memory of
CHARLES HOWARD,
Son of
Thomas and Catharine Howard,
of Richmond, Va.
who departed this life
October 3^d, 1854,
In the 41st year of
his age.
"He fell asleep."

Sacred to
the memory of
HUGH B. HILL,
son of Robert and Temperance Hill
of Buckingham County,
Virginia, who departed
this life on the
20th December, 1849,
in the 25th year
of his age.

Near Cherry Point, in Northumberland county, lies a tombstone which bears an inscription conveying a moral just the reverse of that of Col. John Custis' tombstone at Arlington, in the county of Northampton, which latter states that, "though Col. Custis died at the age of 71, he lived but seven years, which was the space of time he kept a bachelor's house at Arlington on the Eastern Shore of Virginia."

having been, previous to her marriage to Mr. Newton, the wife of "squire" Richard Lee. Mrs. Elizabeth Oldham, the relict of Captain Thomas Newton, previously mentioned, was her great-great-grandmother.

Here lies the body of
 IZATIS ANDERSON,
 late of this county, who was born
 on the 7th day of February, 1779, and died
 the 11th day of August, 1823,
 Aged 44 years 6 months and 7 days.
 He was a worthy and estimable man
 A kind neighbor, a faithful friend
 and good citizen.

In other relations of life he might have been
 equally praiseworthy, but he died a bachelor,
 having never experienced the comfort of being
 a husband or father. This situation he found
 so comfortless that in his last will he
 directed this stone to be placed over his
 remains, with an inscription
 warning all young men from imitating an
 example of celibacy,
 which had yielded to himself
 no other eventual fruits
 but disappointment and remorse.
 Inscribed at his request by his friends,
 Hierom L. Opie
 and
 Fleming Bates.

DOCKET OF CAUSES, WESTMORELAND COUNTY.*

Issue docket for May term, 1796.

Grand Jury presentments to May term.

William Eustace	{	for not keeping a sufficient way over his mill.	(summons.
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* Communicated by Major Thomas L. Broun, Charleston, W. Va. This docket is in the handwriting of Major Broun's grandfather, William Broun, a lawyer of Westmoreland county, Va. His four living grandsons are, Edwin Broun, of Northumberland, formerly judge of the county court; Dr. William Lowry Broun, President of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Joseph M. Broun, lawyer, and Major Thomas L. Broun, living in Charleston, W. Va.